GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6229
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2005
CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER
Mollah Shri Hannan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from West Bengal regarding contaminated drinking water in certain districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI A. NARENDRA)

(a) to (b) Yes, Sir. Government of West Bengal vide letter dated 15th July 2004, has submitted 6 project proposals pertaining to Mushidabad, Nadia and North-24 Paraganas districts for drinking water supply in quality affected habitations (excess arsenic) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1166 crore.

(c) Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. Government of India assist the State Governments financially and technically in this endeavour through the centrally sponsored `Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)`. 15% of the annual ARWSP allocation to the States could be utilized on sub-mission projects for tackling water quality problems on 75:25 funding pattern between the Centre and the State. With effect from 1/4/1998, the State Governments have been empowered to plan, design, sanction and implement sub-mission projects for supply of safe drinking water in water quality affected habitations. If the States/UTs have achieved full coverage of habitations as per the national norms, they may utilize more funds to tackle quality problems with prior approval of the Central Government. The six project proposals received from the Government of West Bengal do not require approval of Government of India.